



COUNTY ESTIMATES

Barley – 2005 Crop

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Colorado's barley production decreased 16 percent from last year's output due to a 25 percent reduction in seeded acreage. The 2005 crop totaled 7,670,000 bushels compared with 9,086,000 bushels produced in 2004 as producers planted 60,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from the previous year. The area harvested, at 59,000 acres, was down 23 percent from the 77,000 acres harvested a year earlier. New varieties and favorable growing conditions raised the state's average yield to 130.0 bushels per acre, 12.0 bushels above the previous year and a record high yield for Colorado barley.

Rio Grande County led all barley producing areas of the state by producing 1,880,000 bushels in 2005. The latest crop was 9 percent smaller than the 2,070,000 bushels produced in 2004 and represented 25 percent of the state's total output. Producers in Rio Grande County harvested 12,100 acres in 2005 compared with 14,900 acres the previous year, a decrease of 19 percent. The average yield of 155.5 bushels per acre for 2005 was 16.5 bushels above the 2004 crop average of 139.0 bushels per acre.

Saguache County dropped to the second largest barley producing area of the state with a total production of 1,810,000 bushels in 2005, down 26 percent from the 2,440,000 bushels produced a year earlier. The 11,500 acres harvested in 2005 were down 32 percent from the previous year. However, the average yield of 157.5 bushels per acre was 13.0 bushels per acre above the 144.5 bushel average for the previous year's crop.

Alamosa County took third place for the 2005 crop by producing 1,300,000 bushels, up 4 percent from the 1,250,000 bushels produced in 2004. The harvested area of 8,100 acres decreased 18 percent from the 9,900 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield for the county, at 160.5 bushels per acre, was 34.0 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 126.5 bushels per acre.

Weld County slipped to fourth place from third last year as its 2005 barley output of 878,000 bushels was down 41 percent compared with 1,485,000 bushels produced the previous year. The harvested area of 9,400 acres was 5,200 acres below a year earlier. Per acre yields in the county were also lower than the previous year, averaging 93.5 bushels for the 2005 crop compared with 101.5 bushels per acre from the 2004 crop.

Conejos County maintained fifth place in barley producing counties in the state with a total production of 740,000 bushels in 2005. The latest crop was 4 percent smaller than the previous year's output of 770,000 bushels. The harvested area of 4,600 acres was 2,200 acres less than the previous year. However, the average yield for the county, at 161.0 bushels per acre, was 48.0 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 113.0 bushels.

The top five producing counties accounted for 86 percent of the state's total barley crop of 7,670,000 bushels produced in 2005. Other top producing counties with the percent change in production from the previous year and the 2005 output were as follows: **Costilla County**, down 19 percent to 300,000 bushels; **Boulder County**, down 9 percent to 162,000 bushels; **Larimer County**, down 28 percent to 135,000 bushels.

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Barley: Acreage and production by county and district, Colorado, 2005

County and District	Total				Non-Irrigated			Irrigated		
	Acreage planted	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion	Acreage har- vested	Yield per acre	Pro- duc- tion
	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.
Routt	1,000	900	35.5	32,000	900	35.5	32,000	...	...	...
Other Counties	100	100	30.0	3,000	100	30.0	3,000	...	...	...
NW & Mountain	1,100	1,000	35.0	35,000	1,000	35.0	35,000	...	...	...
Boulder	1,900	1,900	85.5	162,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Larimer	1,900	1,800	75.0	135,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Morgan	800	800	31.5	25,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Weld	9,800	9,400	93.5	878,000	400	20.0	8,000	9,000	96.5	870,000
Other Counties	1,600	1,600	23.0	37,000	2,400	16.5	39,000	3,700	86.5	320,000
Northeast	16,000	15,500	80.0	1,237,000	2,800	17.0	47,000	12,700	93.5	1,190,000
Mesa	300	300	126.5	38,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other Counties	1,500	1,200	81.0	97,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Southwest	1,800	1,500	90.0	135,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Alamosa	8,100	8,100	160.5	1,300,000	...	...	...	8,100	160.5	1,300,000
Conejos	4,600	4,600	161.0	740,000	...	...	...	4,600	161.0	740,000
Costilla	1,700	1,700	176.5	300,000	...	...	...	1,700	176.5	300,000
Rio Grande	12,100	12,100	155.5	1,880,000	...	...	...	12,100	155.5	1,880,000
Saguache	11,500	11,500	157.5	1,810,000	...	...	...	11,500	157.5	1,810,000
San Luis Valley	38,000	38,000	158.5	6,030,000	...	...	...	38,000	158.5	6,030,000
Other Districts <u>1/</u>	3,100	3,000	77.5	233,000	700	18.5	13,000	3,800	93.5	355,000
State Total	60,000	59,000	130.0	7,670,000	4,500	21.0	95,000	54,500	139.0	7,575,000

1/ Other Districts include, East Central and Southeast.

(D) Data published in combined counties or districts to avoid disclosure of individual operations.